

annual dinner, and I would like to join in recognizing the profound impact that my very dear and long-time friend, Nettie Mayersohn, has had on our community.

Nettie Mayersohn's steadfast dedication to Queens County began long before she was elected to the Assembly. For over 20 years, she served as a community activist, making a name for herself as an unrelenting advocate for children and families in Queens. She was a member of Community Board 8 for ten years, at one time serving as the Chairperson of its Youth Committee; she served as the Chairperson of the Pomonok Community Center; and she continues to serve as a Democratic District Leader, a role she has filled for some three decades. Nettie also served as the Executive Secretary of the New York State Crime Victims Board. In 1977, Nettie was New York State's delegate to the International Women's Conference and the recipient of the Builders of Brotherhood Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews. She received a B.A. from Queens College in 1978, and was elected four years later to represent the 27th District in the New York State Assembly.

As an Assemblywoman, Nettie led the charge to improve healthcare for New Yorkers and defend the rights of victims of violent crime. Nettie's proudest and best-known achievement was the 1996 passage of her Baby AIDS bill, which requires doctors in New York State to tell a mother if her newborn child is HIV-positive. While the fight to enact this bill was, at times, a lonely battle, Nettie's tenacity and fortitude resulted in a landmark law that has saved an untold number of lives and led to an increase in the number of pregnant women who receive prenatal care. Among Nettie's numerous other legislative accomplishments are her HIV Rape Law, which requires a court to comply with a rape victim's request to test the accused for HIV; her Partner Notification Law, which requires the names of those testing positive for HIV to be reported to the Department of Health for the purpose of contact tracing and partner notification; her Victim Impact Law, which allows the victims of a crime to describe, in court, the effect the crime has had on their lives; and her Food Service Law, which implemented crucial health safety measures for food service workers.

Nettie Mayersohn's unwavering commitment to AIDS policy inspired the Beyond AIDS Foundation to create the Nettie Award—an annual honor that recognizes outstanding efforts to promote HIV prevention and control in the United States and across the world. Nettie herself was given a special Nettie Award from Beyond AIDS in 2002, in recognition of her leadership on HIV/AIDS issues. That year, she also received the Public Service Award from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

After 28 years of tireless service, Nettie retired from the Assembly at the beginning of April 2011 so she can spend time more with her wonderful family. While I lament Nettie's retirement from an impressive career as a public servant, she will remain my lifelong friend. We are all beyond grateful for everything she has done to help New Yorkers. I wish her all the best in her retirement—she will be sorely missed in public life.

Mr. Speaker, Nettie Mayersohn is a one-of-a-kind leader and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing her accomplishments and

thanking Nettie for a lifetime of dedication to her community.

#### HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST ALDINE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

#### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tenth anniversary of the East Aldine Management District for their commitment to improving the safety and development in East Aldine.

The District was created in June of 2001 with the purpose to improve the physical, social, and economic well-being of the community. Their goal is to attract public and private investments and promote the area as a leading place to not only invest but also to work and live. Since then the District has gained the power to finance public safety and transportation projects as well as assist with environmental and economic development.

District funding has improved the community's street conditions by adding pedestrian crosswalks, signage to the streets and landscaping, making the area more attractive to families and businesses. In the year 2010 alone, the District funded over \$240,000 in community projects.

The District's economic development program provides across the board marketing and public relations activities for the District to support business retention and encourage new business within the District as well as expansion of small businesses. The development program is successful due to the advanced media outreach which includes traditional methods such as print and mailings but also utilizes the District's alliance with community partners.

Over the past ten years this community has witnessed significant advancements but the next ten years will bring even more economic growth to the area. The District is located just four miles away from Houston Intercontinental Airport and the Port of Houston is a mere twelve miles away, making the District a great expansion location for manufacturing, warehousing, and distribution companies.

I congratulate the President and CEO David Hawes, Board Chairman Gerald Overturf, the entire East Aldine District staff, and the many other volunteers that have dedicated their time to improving their community.

#### HONORING RALPH STANFORD GRIFFIN

#### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and pay tribute to the tremendous contributions made to our community by my friend and constituent, Ralph Stanford Griffin, who passed away on December 1, 2011.

Ralph Griffin, a native of San Antonio, Texas, worked and raised his family in the

San Francisco Bay Area, retiring as an educator and administrator from the Oakland Unified School District. Ralph was a lifelong champion of equal education for all, services for the developmentally disabled, and support for African American families in our community.

His passion and determined advocacy was in no small part the catalyst for establishing the Black Families Association of Contra Costa County (BFA) in 1973. As Founding Members, Mr. Griffin and his wife of 50 years, Norma, together with a small group of their peers saw the need for African Americans in their community to have an outlet to discuss current events and provide support to one another. In an era where racism and biases still prevented equal access to housing and education, the BFA was a place where neighbors could come together to guide and help one another through these challenges. It was and remains an organization that promotes cultural heritage, pride, and dignity within the community, and provides scholarships for deserving high school students.

Ralph Griffin further extended his commitment to students' access to higher education as a dedicated member of the Kennedy-King Memorial Scholarship Fund. He was instrumental in helping the Fund provide annual \$8,000 college scholarships to students from minority groups often under-represented at California's four-year colleges and universities. It is due to Ralph's commitment that so many of our brightest graduating high school students have been able to continue on to higher education.

To Norma, their sons Stanford and Steven, and the entire Griffin family, I extend my heartfelt condolences. Your loss is shared not only by those who knew Ralph personally, but also by all of those touched by his work. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Mr. Ralph Griffin, a courageous and compassionate man who shared his time and talent freely for the betterment of our entire community.

#### CONGRATULATING SAN JACINTO COLLEGE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate San Jacinto College on its fiftieth anniversary. For fifty years, San Jacinto College has provided high quality education to the citizens and communities of East Harris County, Texas. Congratulations to San Jacinto College for a wonderful half-century of empowering students to achieve their goals.

San Jacinto College first opened its doors on Sept. 18, 1961, in a downtown Pasadena storefront, with an initial enrollment of 700 students. Thanks to their passion for helping students succeed, the college has grown to serve more than 30,000 students in 140 disciplines, and it continues to expand.

A leader in comprehensive learning, San Jacinto College recently earned recognition for being a veteran friendly college and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College. This establishment plays a critical role in improving the educational experience of the hard working citizens in our communities.

Access to quality education is an important stepping stone to achieve the American dream of a better life. San Jacinto College provides a valuable opportunity for people throughout our communities to access higher education. As President Kennedy once said, "Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource."

The achievements of San Jacinto College bring pride to Houston and all of Texas. Congratulations to San Jacinto College for fifty years of excellence and to a bright future ahead.

TRIBUTE TO MONTGOMERY,  
ALABAMA MAYOR EMORY FOLMAR

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2011*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give tribute to an Alabamian whose patriotism and devotion to country made him a leader early in life and carried him to prominence in business and public service in later years. I am speaking of former Montgomery Mayor Emory Folmar, who passed away on November 11 at the age of 81.

Emory Folmar was born in Troy, AL, in 1930 and moved to Montgomery when he was fourteen. After graduating from Sidney Lanier High School in 1948, he attended The University of Alabama, receiving a BS in Business in just three years while serving as cadet colonel of the Army ROTC.

After college, he received an Army commission and went to Ft. Benning, GA for parachute training and instructors' schools where he was assigned to the 11th Airborne Division attached to the 2nd Infantry Division. He married Anita Pierce in February 1952 and was deployed to Korea that summer. Wounded in action, he received the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. At the rank of lieutenant, he received the French Croix de Guerre as a result of his actions with the 23rd Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division and French troops.

Following his service in Korea, he was assigned to Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, as an Airborne Jump Master until 1954. He then moved to Montgomery to join his brother James Folmar and Henry Flynn in home construction. The Folmar brothers' business later expanded to include large commercial shopping center construction throughout the Southeast.

In 1975, he entered politics at the urging of his son David, first running for Montgomery city council. He was soon elected president of the city council and then became Mayor of Montgomery from 1977 till 1999. His time in office was marked by economic growth and an emphasis on law and order.

Mayor Folmar ran as Republican for governor in 1982 against former Democrat Governor George C. Wallace. Although he did not win the election, Emory made the strongest showing of any Republican running for governor since reconstruction to that time.

Very active in Republican politics on the state and national levels, he also served as campaign chairman for Ronald Reagan's finance committee in 1980; state chairman for President Reagan in 1984; and chairman for

Bush-Quayle in 1988 and 1992. After retiring from politics, he was appointed Commissioner of the Alabama Beverage Control Board by then-Governor Bob Riley in 2003. During his time in that post, he streamlined and modernized the ABC to make it more efficient.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to send my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Anita; their children, Wilson Bibb and Margaret; and their grandchildren; as well as his sisters, Miriam and Anne, and many friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

HONORING ALBERT BIERSTADT  
AND THE HUDSON RIVER  
SCHOOL OF PAINTING

**HON. JARED POLIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2011*

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a change in the Capitol Visitors Center. Two paintings by the prominent 19th century painter Albert Bierstadt have recently been returned to the Capitol Complex by the Architect of the Capitol. Originally purchased after the Civil War, "Discovery of the Hudson River" and "Entrance into Monterey," are part of the first indigenous American school of painting, called the Hudson River School. This movement was not just restricted to beautiful landscapes—it also had an important influence on American culture, recreation, and conservation.

Though the Hudson River School originated in upstate New York, painters soon began traveling widely to study and capture new scenes. These travels took the painters to Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, South America, and the American West. Bierstadt is one of the most prominent artists of the Western United States, and has a strong connection to my district in Colorado.

In 1859, Bierstadt traveled to my home State of Colorado and to Wyoming, then territories, with a government surveyor. The large-scale landscapes he painted from his notes and sketches from this trip prompted the creation of many more paintings back in his studio. Bierstadt's depiction of the craggy peaks of the Rockies, the Sierra Nevada, and in Yosemite, among others, resulted in the christening of Mount Bierstadt in my district.

In the 1870s, Congress purchased several of Bierstadt's works, including the two that hang today in the CVC. These same paintings, and other Western landscapes by Hudson River School painters, coupled with a growing environmental conservation movement, inspired Congress to protect this natural beauty through the creation of Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks. Later, these paintings were used again to prompt the formation of the National Park Service.

This is just one example of the Hudson River School of Painters' legacy. The School emphasized realistic, highly detailed scenes that were very popular over the 19th century. These works captured the beauty and variety of the American landscape.

Painters from the Hudson River School also had a hand in the foundation of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Inspired by the artistic culture of the capitals of Europe,

School painters joined other area businessmen and academics to form the Met in 1870. Bierstadt met with the President, and other painters of the School served as trustees or as members of the executive committee. Today, many of Bierstadt's works hang in the Met alongside works by many other Hudson River School painters, as well as other institutions like the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Americans of all ages to take the time to view these paintings and consider the beauty and greatness of these landscapes, both on canvas and in the wilderness.

THE FAILURE TO PROTECT FARMERS  
AND RANCHERS FROM CORPORATE ABUSES

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2011*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) final rule that was supposed to protect our Nation's farmers and ranchers from abusive practices in the livestock industry.

Simply put, the final rule is inadequate and shows the power big corporate packers and processors have in this country. The final rule does not include about half of the protections it did in a previous draft.

Congress had to direct USDA in the 2008 farm bill to establish a set of comprehensive protection rules because the department was so slow in responding to the changing marketplace that has become so slanted toward corporate packers and processors that we are losing small farmers at a rapid pace.

The average American chicken grower makes 34 cents per bird while the processing corporation makes \$3.23 per bird. With a profit margin of 34 cents is it any wonder that we have lost over 460,000 small-scale farms since 1982.

USDA claims it is committed to ensuring a fair and transparent marketplace. How can we have a fair and transparent marketplace when we allow corporations to force farmers to sign production contracts where one farmer is paid less than another despite producing the same livestock because there is no way for farmers to determine fair product value since there is no contract disclosure requirement.

In addition, how can USDA claim it supports a fair marketplace when it fails to clearly define conduct that is a violation of law? How are farmers supposed to know when they are being taken advantage of when the governmental agency tasked with protecting them does not tell them what types of practices are a violation of the law?

This House has not helped our Nation's producers either. We recently passed legislation that withholds funding from USDA to move forward with establishing more comprehensive fairness rules. Ultimately, we set the USDA up to fail and farmers and ranchers will suffer because corporate special interests have a stronger lobby than America's producers.

While the final rule will prevent some of the most abusive practices in the poultry industry,